

BOB FILNER
51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

2428 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-8045
FAX: (202) 225-9073

333 F STREET, SUITE A
CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA 91910
TEL: (619) 422-5963
FAX: (619) 422-7290

1101 AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE D
IMPERIAL, CALIFORNIA 92251
TEL: (760) 355-8800
FAX: (760) 355-8802



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 30, 2006

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES
COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

RAILROADS

AVIATION

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE
VETERANS' HEALTH

website: www.house.gov/filner

The Honorable Michael Johanns
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

In my Congressional District's Imperial County, CA, Brawley Beef, LLC has built a state of the art cattle and beef processing facility that began operations in 2001. It is owned and operated by seven local cattle feeders and processes approximately 7,000 head per week--with the majority of the cattle under 20 months of age. The company provides employment for over 700 people in a region that is known for chronically high unemployment.

The opening of the Japanese market was a ray of hope for my constituents. Brawley Beef went to great expense to implement the strongest of safety rules required for marketing beef to Japan.

Imperial County was poised to be one of the country's major beef exporters to Japan. Unfortunately, the recent re-suspension of Japanese exports has left the company and its employees in a critical financial position. Over \$3.5 million dollars worth of product is enroute or at the docks in Japan.

Since USDA inspectors allowed unacceptable veal to be exported, it is critical that you and your department take immediate and proactive steps to develop both short and long term solutions to this problem. USDA should consider assisting beef exporters by helping to redirect shipments intended for Japan to our military personnel in Okinawa, South Korea, or the Middle East.

My office will be happy to provide you with all the appropriate information on my constituents current beef shipments. If you or your staff would like to discuss these options further, please feel free to contact me directly at (202) 225- 8045.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/je
2298326